

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231689

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, RO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR PROPOSED NEW ROMANIAN
AMBASSADOR, NICOLAE IONESCU

REFS: A) STATE 228675 B) BUCHAREST 6349

1. DEPARTMENT WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY REQUEST FOR AGREE-
MENT FOR NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR. THOUGH OSTENSIBLE REASON
GIVEN FOR NICOLAE'S REPLACEMENT IS ILL HEALTH, DEPARTMENT
BELIEVES THAT THE PACEPA CASE MAY WELL HAVE PLAYED A PART
IN THE SUDDEN CHANGE.

2. IN THIS REGARD, DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO
EMBASSY'S ATTENTION FACT THAT IN ADDITION TO NICOLAE, MINIS-
TER COUNSELOR IONITA, COUNSELOR FLOREA AND FIRST SECRETARY
CORA HAVE ALSO RETURNED RECENTLY TO ROMANIA ON VERY SHORT
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NOTICE OR HAVE NOT COME BACK FROM LEAVE THERE. WHEN
QUERIED ABOUT HOW LONG HE WOULD BE CHARGE, BESTELIU INDI-
CATED TO US THAT HE DID NOT KNOW AND THAT HE WAS NOT SURE
AS TO WHEN IONITA WOULD RETURN.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF
SIGNIFICANCE OF NICOLAE'S SUDDEN REMOVAL. ACCORDING TO

ROMANIAN EMBASSY SOURCE AS RECENTLY AS TWO WEEKS AGO,

NICOLAE WAS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND WOULD RETURN,
ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CERTAIN WHEN. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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